

## Remarks

It is respectfully requested that claims 1 - 9, 11 and 12 be reconsidered for allowance in view of this Amendment and these Remarks.

Page 10 and the "Assignment" thereon is cancelled.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamai et al. Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 10, which was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, amended claim 9 should be allowed because it is essentially claim 10 in independent form.

Claims 11 and 12 should be allowed because they now depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 9.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

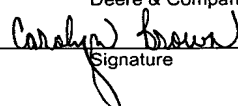
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Respectfully,

  
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